

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, MILL, KS, JA, US
SUBJECT: VISITS OF LDP PARLIAMENTARIANS

REF: (A) TOKYO 13859, (B) SEOUL 6780

1. LDP UPPER HOUSE MEMBER MASAO HORIE CALLED ON POL COUNSELOR AUGUST 2 TO DISCUSS MINOWA GROUP'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO U.S. (REF A). HE CONFIRMED THAT ONE MAJOR AIM OF TRIP WAS TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN FOR A U.S.-JAPAN PARLIAMENTARIANS SECURITY PROBLEMS GROUP. HE INDICATED JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS BEEN WORKING OUT SCHEDULE, INCLUDING NUMEROUS APPOINTMENTS ON HILL, MEETINGS AT BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, SRI, ETC., AND EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN MEETING SENATE AND HOUSE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS. POL COUNSELOR WELCOMED DIET MEMBERS' VISIT, BUT WITH REGARD TO ESTABLISHING REGULAR PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE IN SECURITY AREA POINTED OUT DIFFICULTY IN WORKING WITH ONE SEGMENT OF DIET OR FOCUSING EXCHANGE ON ONE SET OF PROBLEMS. HORIE RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTY AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
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AMBASSADOR HAD CALLED THIS TO MINOWA'S ATTENTION EARLIER IN YEAR.

2. ON YET ANOTHER PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE FRONT, SEVERAL VERNACULAR PAPERS RECENTLY CARRIED SUMMARY OF LDP LOWER HOUSE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EICHI NAKAO'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, JULY 21, IN

WHICH HE EXPANDED ON HIS PET PROJECT, U.S.-JAPAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO NAKAO, ABOUT 40 U.S. CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING SEVERAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, HAVE AGREED TO HOLD SYMPOSIUM WITH JAPANESE IN TOKYO FOR ONE WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 15 ON ISSUES SUCH AS PEACE AND STABILITY IN EAST ASIA, TRADE, AND ENERGY. NAKAO QUOTED HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ULLMAN AS AGREEING TO NEED FOR NOVEMBER MEETING IN VIEW OF ENORMOUS BILATERAL TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN AND CONSEQUENT POSSIBILITY THAT CONGRESS WOULD IMPOSE SURCHARGE ON JAPANESE IMPORTS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE BOTH NAKAO AND MINOWA ARE LOCATED POLITICALLY ON FAR RIGHT OF LDP AND HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL INTERCHANGE BODY MONOPOLIZED BY LDP ON JAPANESE SIDE, THEY HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY AND REGARD EACH OTHER AS RIVALS RATHER THAN COLLABORATORS. EVEN IF EITHER OR BOTH OF THEM MANAGE TO ORGANIZE BINATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY GATHERINGS, IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT OPPOSITION PARTY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD PARTICIPATE.

MANSFIELD

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